In 1994, the same time that she was organising some of these activities, Dorothy also served as a member of FNCV Council.

Dorothy was made an Honorary Member of FNCV in August 2012, along with her partner, Noel Schleiger, for their individual and joint contributions to the Club. Dorothy's input to FNCV was wide-ranging, significant and enduring. As Valda Dedman wrote in 2005 (*The Victorian Naturalist* 122: 309) 'Dorothy Mahler is a great worker … She represents the indispensable 'backroom girls', not on Council, but essential to the Club.'

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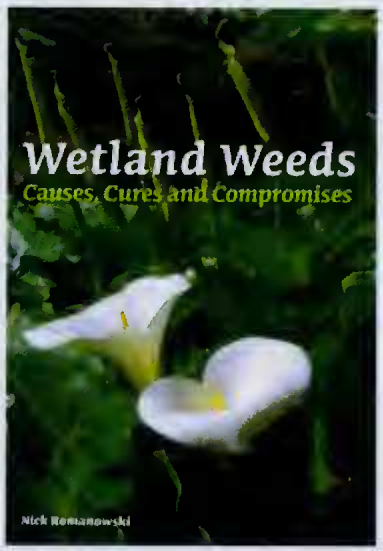
Wetland Weeds: Causes, Cures and Compromises

by Nick Romanowski

Publisher: *CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood, Victoria 2011. 140 pages, paperback, colour photographs. ISBN 9780643103955. RRP $49.95.*



Nick Romanowski has been infatuated with indigenous wetland plants for over four decades and his passion shows in *Wetland Weeds: Causes, Cures and Compromises*, a book written in his endeavours to educate people about the dangers of using introduced plants in aquaria and ponds or water gardens. His efforts are commendable. Weeds of waterways have many costs — environmental, economic and cultural. They can out-compete desired native plants, thus reducing biodiversity; form dense infestations that clog waterways, making their navigation difficult and impeding recreational activities, irrigation and industrial processes; and divert waterflow, resulting in erosion and/or flooding. Weeds also can be difficult and costly to eradicate. There is much information concerning the problems caused by aquatic weeds (e.g. Adair and Groves 1998; Groves *et al.* 2005), as well as examples of the cost of their management, such as $1.6 million for the *Salvinia* infestation in the Hawkesbury-Nepean River in 2004 (Gorham 2008) and $140 000 per annum for *Cabomba caroliniana* Fanwort in Lake Macdonald in the Noosa biosphere in Queensland (Moran 2009). As Romanowski says (page 13), the primary theoretical defence against weeds is education. I would have preferred, therefore, that the sections in Chapter 1 on problems caused by weeds and the causes of weediness, had provided much greater detail. The chapter, however, does provide a good overview of what a weed is and the legal and official categories of weeds.

Chapter 2 discusses prevention, different types of control and management of weeds. The author pragmatically explains the importance of differentiating between the various types and levels of threat posed by weeds and the likelihood of eradication or control. At times, however, he tends to ramble and rely on his

own opinions rather than scientific evidence. Weed management is complex and dependent on scale and local conditions as well as local regulations; it would have been useful if this had been discussed in some detail. Moreover, the treatments of the various control methods are cursory, especially considering the volume of information available in the literature. I would have preferred to see an actual literature review of control methods for aquatic systems with appropriate citations, so the reader could consider other viewpoints. However, a list of websites, including government websites, and references are included at the end of the book and provides the reader with the opportunity to do this. The section on assessment and planning raises some important points and provides a useful list of key issues that should be included in any management program. An important point that was not covered related to the importance of understanding the local ecology of the weeds. In certain circumstances removal of weeds can be harmful to fauna that depend on them (Carlos and Gibson 2010; Jayawardana *et al.* 2010), or may cause erosion of banks (Zukowski and Gawne 2006). Thus, weed removal should be carried out in gradual stages in conjunction with planting of natives, to replace the environmental services provided by the weeds.

In Chapter 3 Romanowski discusses how Australian native plants can, and have, become weeds, an important topic little recognised by the public. He then proceeds to discuss the origins, uses, preferred growth conditions, species that can be confused with each other, environmental impacts and values and control and management of minor indigenous wetland weeds. Species are discussed under the genus in which they occur. This is disconcerting as not all species within these genera are weeds. Chapter 4 presents a compendium of weeds and largely follows the format used for minor indigenous wetland weeds in Chapter 3. In Chapter 4, however, the weeds are firstly divided into: grasses; sedges, rushes and other relatives of grasses; other wetland weeds; hardy waterlilies, tropical waterlilies; algae and cyanobacteria and seaweeds. These two chapters are useful and provide the reader with a good idea of what the problem plants are and for which species they should be on the alert.

Thirty-two coloured plates are included and depict various weedscapes, highlighting the invasive nature of many of the species pictured. Other photographs are useful identification aids. The photographic plates are grouped together between pages 30 and 31 but I am sure many readers would prefer a coloured photograph of each species in the compendium, alongside their associated information. The glossary provides informal definitions of more unusual terms and would be useful to those unfamiliar with such terms. I feel the book is a little overpriced but it would make a useful addition to the library of those who care for our wetland environments. It would facilitate their recognition of what plants to remove when restoring a wetland, which to use in revegetation of a wetland or creation of a new wetland, even if this wetland is only a small pond in the backyard.

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